

PATENT APPLICATION
Serial Number: 09/960,668
Attorney Docket Number: SYN 1780

REMARKS

Applicants hereby submits this Preliminary Amendment A and Response to Restriction/Election Requirement, responsive to the Office Action—Date Mailed: September 3, 2004, Paper No. 2, for which a response is due October 3, 2004 by a shortened statutory period for reply set to expire one [1] month from the mailing date of the Office Action.

Claims 1-65 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-65 are subject to restriction and/or election.

By this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 19, 22, 23, 32, 51 and 58-65 have been amended to correct typographical errors; responsive to Examiner's comment regarding claim numbering.

In response to Examiner's comment in paragraph one of the Office Action regarding two switches as connected to each other in the drawings, Applicants respectfully draw Examiner's attention to the following figures as described in the application and shown in the corresponding figures:

FIG. 7A shows the interconnection between two tunable laser-based switching systems 10000, wherein the output j of the upstream switching system U is coupled to the input i of the downstream switching system D.... Each of the wavelengths multiplexed by WDM MUX $_j$ 10050 in switching system U is then de-multiplexed from input i by WDM DMUX $_i$ 10040 of switching system D on a respective one of the output lines 10410 ($i,1$) through ($i,16$). (09/960,668, pg. 28, lns. 27-30—pg. 29, lns. 1-5)

The transmission system in FIG. 9 couples data units from an output port 7320 to an input port 7330 through a communications network 7310 deploying lambda routing. Within the WDM communications network 7310 multiple optical channels are multiplexed over links among nodes; nodes, also called lambda

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routers, route different channels over different paths. The output port 7320 and the input port 7330 are connected to the communications network 7310 through WDM links 1230-I and 1230-E, respectively, comprising a plurality of optical channels. (09/960,668, pg. 43, lns. 28-31—pg. 44, lns. 1-2)

By this Response to Restriction/Election requirement, Applicants elect with traverse Species VIII which corresponds to Figure 14. The claims that read on this embodiment are Claims 1-65. Applicants further elect Subspecies A drawn to Figure 4, Subspccies B drawn to Figure 12, Subspecies C drawn to Figure 27, Subspecies D drawn to figure 30, Subspecies E drawn to Figure 31, Subspecies F drawn to Figure 32, Subspecies G drawn to Figure 5A, Subspecies H drawn to Figure 15A, Subspecies I drawn to Figure 23A, Subspecies J drawn to Figure 23B, Subspecies K drawn to Figure 26A, Subspecies L drawn to Figure 19B and Subspecies M drawn to Figure 20. Applicants respectfully submit that the reduction to practice of all Subspecies A-M show possession of a generic invention as claimed by Applicants.

Applicants respectfully submit that Figures 1, 6-8, 11, 13 and 21 are further illustrations of the embodiment of the presently claimed invention and reductions to practice of Subspecies A-M. Thus, Figures 1, 6-8, 11, 13 and 21 are accordingly drawn to the elected Species VIII as respectfully submitted by the following:

Figure 1 further illustrates the embodiment of the presently claimed invention as shown in Figure 14; including: an alignment subsystem that is functionally equivalent to the optical alignment subsystem of Figure 14, a tunable laser that is functionally equivalent to the wavelength conversion subsystem of Figure 14, and combined WDM DMUX and WDM MUX that are functionally equivalent to the optical cross connect of Figure 14.

Figure 6 further illustrates the embodiment of the presently claimed invention as shown in Figure 14; including: an optical alignment subsystem that is functionally equivalent to the optical alignment subsystem of Figure 14, a tunable laser that is functionally equivalent to the wavelength conversion subsystem of Figure 14, and combined WDM DMUX and WDM MUX that are functionally equivalent to the optical cross connect of Figure 14.

Figure 7 further illustrates the embodiment of the presently claimed invention as shown in Figure 14; including: an optical alignment subsystem that is functionally equivalent to the

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optical alignment subsystem of Figure 14, a tunable laser that is functionally equivalent to the wavelength conversion subsystem of Figure 14, and combined WDM DMUX and WDM MUX that are functionally equivalent to the optical cross connect of Figure 14.

Figure 8 further illustrates the embodiment of the presently claimed invention as shown in Figure 14; including: an optical alignment subsystem that is functionally equivalent to the optical alignment subsystem of Figure 14, a tunable laser that is functionally equivalent to the wavelength conversion subsystem of Figure 14, and combined WDM DMUX and WDM MUX that are functionally equivalent to the optical cross connect of Figure 14.

Figure 11 further illustrates the embodiment of the presently claimed invention as shown in Figure 14; including: an optical alignment subsystem that is functionally equivalent to the optical alignment subsystem of Figure 14, a tunable laser that is functionally equivalent to the wavelength conversion subsystem of Figure 14, and combined WDM DMUX and WDM MUX that are functionally equivalent to the optical cross connect of Figure 14.

Figure 13 further illustrates the embodiment of the presently claimed invention as shown in Figure 14; including: an optical alignment subsystem that is functionally equivalent to the optical alignment subsystem of Figure 14, a tunable laser (TL) that is functionally equivalent to the wavelength conversion subsystem of Figure 14, and combined WDM DMUX and WDM MUX that are functionally equivalent to the optical cross connect of Figure 14.

Figure 21 further illustrates the embodiment of the presently claimed invention as shown in Figure 14; including: an optical alignment subsystem that is functionally equivalent to the optical alignment subsystem of Figure 14, a multiple wavelength converters that are functionally equivalent to the wavelength conversion subsystem of Figure 14, and a wave guide grating router (WGR) that is functionally equivalent to the optical cross connect of Figure 14.

Applicants respectfully submit that all restriction/election requirements have been fully met, and that this Preliminary Amendment A and Response to Restriction/Election Requirement is responsive to the Office Action—Date Mailed: September 3, 2004, Paper No. 2.

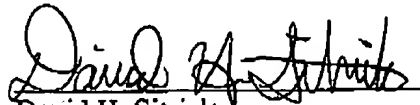
Applicants respectfully submit that any and all restrictions, objections and rejections are hereby traversed and overcome, and the application is in proper form for allowance. A Notice of Allowance or Allowability is respectfully requested.

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No additional fees are due. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to directly communicate with the undersigned, if it will in any way facilitate the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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October 4, 2004

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